

10 March 1988

FACT SHEET

POOL 8 ISLANDS
POOL 8, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER, WISCONSIN

LOCATION: The site is the open lake-like reaches of pool 8 on the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Brownsville, Minnesota, and Stoddard, Wisconsin. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

RESOURCE PROBLEM: Many of the islands providing valuable habitat in the pool have eroded or disappeared, probably because of wave action and river flows. It is believed that the increased wind fetch, and associated turbidity have resulted in the loss of valuable aquatic plant beds, particularly wild celery, which is used by migrating canvasback ducks.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The proposed project is to stabilize and construct islands in the lake-like portion of pool 8 to reduce wind and wave action. The islands would be constructed of dredged material and protected with riprap or other means to prevent erosion. It is anticipated that the project would be constructed in phases because of its large size and the desire to assess the effectiveness of completed portions of the project prior to proceeding with additional island construction. This project has been consolidated into one project for greater efficiency from the original two project conceptualization (Pool 8 Island Protection and Pool 8 Barrier Islands).

PROJECT OUTPUTS: Construction of the islands would maintain existing valuable habitat and provide physical conditions necessary for the re-establishment of aquatic plant beds in the lake-like reaches of pool 8. This would benefit a wide spectrum of fish and wildlife, particularly migrating canvasbacks. The canvasback is of special interest to the Fish and Wildlife Service because of low population numbers. Project benefits would be quantified during preparation of the definite project report.

FINANCIAL DATA: Funds totaling \$45,000 have been allocated through FY 1987 for the General Design phase of the project. An additional \$100,000 was allocated for General Design in FY 1988 for required surveys and hydraulic analysis of the proposed project. Construction costs are estimated at \$2,500,000 for phase 1 of the four-phase project. Funding would be 100-percent Federal because the project is located on the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge.